

February 16, 2017

Dear Governor Malloy and the State Appropriations Committee:

Each year hundreds of thousands of visitors, many from all over the country and abroad, visit seven leading art museums in Connecticut – the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield; the Bruce Museum in Greenwich; the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme; the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington; the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London; the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury; and the New Britain Museum of American Art in New Britain. Our seven museums offer some of the most exciting and stimulating exhibitions and programming to be found anywhere. Located strategically through the state, our institutions contribute to the cultural and economic vitality of the State of Connecticut.

Given the steady, reliable impact of these seven art museums on the state economy, we urge you to reinstate funding for the Connecticut Art Museum Consortium to be shared by our seven member museums for FY18. Such an appropriation will support our institutions, both individually and collectively, to continue the rich presentation of exhibitions and educational programs designed to attract the participation of residents and visitors to Connecticut.

For the New Britain Museum of American Art, this funding (at \$41,045 and \$62,566 for FY17 and FY16, respectively) has been instrumental to the Museum's success. In FY16, the NBMAA welcomed over 89,000 visitors, from all 50 states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico, plus 21 separate countries. There is no doubt that the NBMAA and other Museums contribute to the vibrant arts and cultural ecosystem in the state and region.

In summation, I ask that you reinstate the Direct Line Funding for the Connecticut Art Museum Consortium as these pillar institutions that drive tourism dollars to the state and region, but also generate millions in economic impact year after year, and provide quality arts and cultural programming to visitors of all ages, demographics, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Sincerely,



Min Jung Kim  
Director and CEO